



Hingham Historical Commission

Town Hall, 210 Central Street, Hingham, MA 02043

March 18, 2010

To: Mark Grylls, Acting Building Commissioner
Patrick and Maria Plante, Applicants

Re: Application to Demolish the Premises at 111-113 Fort Hill Street

On January 4, 2010, and again on March 15, 2010, the Hingham Historical Commission held a hearing pursuant to the Demolition Delay Bylaw on an application by the Plantes to demolish the premises at 111-113 Fort Hill Street in order to erect a replacement structure with six units of affordable housing for veterans. The replacement structure will be built and maintained by Father Bill's/Mainspring and Neighborhood Housing Services, relaying in part on funds to be supplied by the Town of Hingham pursuant to the Community Preservation Act. Funding of the project will be considered by voters at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, and we understand that the project will not go forward, and the existing structure will not be demolished, unless this funding is approved.

On November 9, 2009, the members of the Commission made a site visit to the premises. We also consulted the Historic Inventory Form prepared for us by Fannin/Lehner, Preservation Consultants.

Having determined, preliminarily, that the existing house - listed on inventories of the historic assets of the Town and Commonwealth - is "historically significant", we subsequently determine that it has lost virtually all of its historic character due to a series of unfortunate interior and exterior changes over the years, and voted to recommend that its demolition be authorized, provided that the replacement structure is completed in substantial accordance with revised plans provided to us and dated March 16, 2010. A copy of these plans, incorporating certain changes recommended by the Commission at its hearing on March 15, 2010 is attached. The key changes appear in this

representation of the front façade, and include 6 over 6 wooden windows with wider sills, a redesigned and simplified front entrance, and a revised, lowered roofline.



We urge the applicants and their successors to seek any necessary relief from the Board of Appeals in order to increase the front setback and to align the structure so that it is parallel to Fort Hill Street, rather than at the irregular angle of the existing structure, which is only 10 feet from the public way at the right (Northeasterly) front corner.

Finally, we ask the Acting Building Commissioner notify us when final plans are submitted pursuant to a building permit application, so that we may review them.

Alexander Maurillo

Chairman, Hingham Historical Commission